UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/96
14 April 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Fifty-third session
Items 96 and 97 of the preliminary list*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 9 April 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit as an annex to this letter the texts of the declaration by the Heads of State of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the further intensification of regional integration (annex I) and the Tashkent Declaration on the United Nations special programme for the economies of Central Asia (SPECA) (annex II), which were signed at a meeting of the Interstate Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent on 26 March 1998.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 96 and 97 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Akmaral ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Zamira ESHMAMBETOVA
Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Permanent Representative of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Alisher VOHIDOV
Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

* A/53/50.

98-10191 (E) 160498 160498 170498

/...

ANNEX I

Declaration by the Heads of State of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the further intensification of regional integration

On the basis of the common history and culture of their peoples, the Heads of State of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, acknowledging the important role of interstate cooperation in various spheres, desirous of creating conditions for the formation of a common economic space and acting in the name of the strengthening of the peace, security and socio-economic progress of the peoples of Central Asia, held a regular meeting in Tashkent on 26 March 1998.

The leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan:

- Unanimously support the accession of Tajikistan to the Treaty on the Creation of a Unified Economic Space between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan;

- Again confirm the openness of the Treaty on the creation of a unified economic space and emphasize that they would also welcome the participation of Turkmenistan in a form acceptable to it.

The Heads of State emphasized that:

- They will consistently intensify economic integration and cooperation in a phased manner: a free trade zone, a customs union, payments and currency unions and, lastly, a common market for goods, services and capital;

- Currently, the priority directions for integration are cooperation in agro-industry, the water and energy supply sector, transportation, production cooperation and payments and accounting relations;

- They regard the integration of the States of Central Asia as a natural and objective process which is conditioned and determined by the vital interests of each country.

The parties have agreed:

- To step up work on the harmonization of national legislation and normative instruments for purposes of creating conditions conducive to the intensification of economic integration processes;

- On the basis of the common development prospects of the participating States in the Central Asian region, to draw up a strategy for regional economic cooperation for the next few years;

- To begin establishing a free trade zone in the region, which they regard as a first and important step in the creation of a unified economic space;

- That the activity of the international consortiums to be established in priority sectors of the economic complexes of the participating States must be aimed at the implementation of common and mutually advantageous inter-regional projects;

- To pursue, for purposes of creating a common agricultural market, an agreed policy for the development of the agriculture sector to provide the population with food and the processing sectors with raw materials;

- Actively to develop cooperation and close interaction in the social, cultural, legal and other spheres;

- To implement according to plan the agreed actions for the protection of nature and the elimination of the consequences of natural disasters, and to continue the implementation of measures to improve the environmental situation in the Aral Sea basin and the Aral region;

- To ensure the strict implementation of the joint agreements adopted.

The Governments of the parties are instructed:

- To establish a commission at the deputy prime minister level for the purpose of drawing up a comprehensive programme for the further development of the Central Asia region;

- To ensure harmonization of customs legislation and reduce the differences in the amounts of customs duties and indirect charges, and to adopt an agreed decision on unified principles for the conduct of customs controls in trade with one another;

- Not to take decisions which would complicate customs procedures and impede the free movement and transit of goods;

- In order to solve the problem of non-payments to one another, to make use of the potential of commercial banks and of bills of exchange and promissory notes issued by enterprises;

- To develop a network of joint enterprises and production cooperation taking into account the interests of each country, the availability of resources, production capabilities and prospects and the attainment of common results on the basis of mutual division of labour;

- To find effective ways of linking the energy supply systems of Central Asia, using all available possibilities for the purpose;

- To develop agreed approaches to tariff policy for all forms of transport, to create tariff corridors for the carriage of priority cargos and to take measures to increase the share of domestic carriers in the transport services market;

- To draw up unified principles for quality control of goods imported into the territory of participating States and agreed lists of goods requiring temporary protection on the domestic markets of participating States;

- To coordinate activities for intensifying measures to combat organized crime, terrorism and the unlawful distribution and sale of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

- To implement an agreed strategy in the interest of strengthening regional and international security;

- To facilitate the conduct of measures to strengthen and develop humanitarian contacts between nationals of the Central Asian countries.

The Presidents declare their firm resolve to do everything possible to strengthen eternal friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Central Asia, which are in conformity with their vital interests.

The Presidents are convinced that Central Asia will occupy a fitting place in the world civilization of the coming millennium as an economically developed region where friendly and fraternal relations among peoples and States flourish and prosper.

(Signed)	(Signed)	(Signed)	(Signed)
N. NAZARBAEV	A. AKAYEV	E. RAKHMONOV	I. KARIMOV
President of	President of	President of	President of
Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan

ANNEX II

Tashkent Declaration of 26 March 1998 on the United Nations special programme for the economies of Central Asia

The Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the one hand, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on the other,

Conscious of the community of interests of economic development of the States of Central Asia,

Recognizing the need to strengthen further the economic ties between the Central Asian States, and expressing the desire of the States of the Central Asian region for economic integration with Europe and Asia,

Declare their intention to adopt a United Nations special programme for the economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and to embark on its implementation.

The purpose of the programme is to assist the States of Central Asia to strengthen their mutual cooperation, stimulate their economic development and integrate them into the economy of European and Asian countries.

The programme will be implemented on the principles of cooperation, mutual benefit, openness and equality of the participating Central Asian States, with the support of donor countries and international organizations.

At the initial stage of programme implementation, the following areas of cooperation have been recognized as priorities:

- Development of the transport infrastructure and simplification of procedures for the movement of goods, services and people across State borders;

- Rational and effective use of energy and water resources in Central Asia;

- An international economic conference on Tajikistan, and a joint strategy for regional development and attracting foreign investment;

- Regional cooperation on developing various ways to deliver hydrocarbon raw materials via pipelines to world markets.

The list of priority areas of cooperation may be extended by mutual agreement of the Parties.

In order to ensure the successful implementation of agreed programmes within the framework of SPECA and the mobilization of additional resources, the States of Central Asia and the United Nations regional commissions call on other organizations and agencies in the United Nations development system, supporting

States, donor countries, international financing institutions and the private sector to provide financial and other support to the programme.

In order to ensure the speedy implementation of the programme, the Governments of the States participating in SPECA together with ECE, ESCAP and the United Nations resident coordinators in the relevant States, shall draw up and agree on an organizational structure for the programme and determine its basic financing arrangements and the principles which will enable these arrangements to be implemented.

The States participating in SPECA are grateful to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his support for the initiative by the Central Asian States and the mobilization of the resources of the United Nations system towards these objectives.

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:
(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

For the Kyrgyz Republic:
(Signed) A. AKAYEV

For the Republic of Tajikistan:
(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:
(Signed) I. KARIMOV

For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:
(Signed) Y. BERTHELOT

For the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific:
(Signed) A. MOOY

Tashkent, 26 March 1998